

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 514
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Charles K. Wolfe on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles K. Wolfe is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for thirty-five years as a Professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU); and

WHEREAS, a nationally renowned historian, scholar, and author on the roots of American music, as well as a noted expert on Tennessee folklore and country music, Dr. Wolfe is a highly esteemed professor at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, after obtaining his Bachelor of Arts degree from Southwest Missouri University, Charles Wolfe graduated from the University of Kansas with a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in English; and

WHEREAS, a cultural historian, specializing in folklore, music and regional literature, Dr. Wolfe is a prolific writer, having written literally hundreds of essays and articles and many books; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wolfe's book on the Grand Ole Opry, *A Good Natured Riot: The Birth of the Grand Ole Opry*, has won two of the literary worlds' most prestigious awards for books in the music field: the Rolling Stone Ralph Gleason Award and the Deems Taylor Award, presented by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers; and

WHEREAS, vast recognition of his many works has ranged from a prized collection of awards to many publications and achievements, a brief list of which includes the MTSU Outstanding Research Award in 1984 and 1994, the Governor's Award in the Arts presented by

Governor Ned Ray McWherter for a lifetime of achievement in preserving Tennessee's folk heritage, the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Association of Sound Recordings, the 1988 Award of Merit presented by the International Bluegrass Music Association, and the 1997 Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Curb Music Business Program; and

WHEREAS, Professor Wolfe was named an Honorary Kentucky Colonel by Kentucky's Governor for helping to preserve Kentucky's folk music heritage; and

WHEREAS, evincing his deep commitment to literary journals and university presses, Dr. Wolfe is a member of the Board of Directors for JEMF Quarterly and The Old Time Herald, and he is on the Board of Advisors for the University Press of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Editor of the Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin, Dr. Wolfe is a reader and referee for The University of Tennessee Press, the University Press of Kentucky, the University Press of Mississippi, Duke University Press, Oxford University Press, Vanderbilt University Press, the University of North Carolina Press, the University of California Press, the University of Oklahoma Press, and the University of Alabama Press; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wolfe has annotated over one hundred sound recordings and has produced and contributed to both national and international radio formats; and

WHEREAS, he has been interviewed and quoted in national periodicals including *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, and *USA Today*; and

WHEREAS, Professor Wolfe has been an exemplary colleague and friend to his peers and has devoted his career to enhancing the prospects of college students by ensuring that they obtained the best possible education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wolfe is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations and lending his support to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wolfe exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Charles Wolfe has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and students alike; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to seize this golden opportunity to recognize and honor Dr. Charles Wolfe for his meritorious efforts to preserve and teach the bountiful history of this great State and Nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend for his illustrious 35-year tenure as a professor at Middle Tennessee State University, thank him for his dauntless dedication to preserving the cultural and regional history, music, and literature of Tennessee, and extend to Dr. Charles K. Wolfe our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.